

The President's Daily Brief

3 December 1969

48

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

50X1

South Vietnam

(Page 1)

50X1

The election year is already well started in Chile.
(Page 2)

The European Communities end their summit meeting.
(Page 3)

Soviets

(Page 4)

50X1

Cuba scorns diplomatic relations with its neighbors.
(Page 5)

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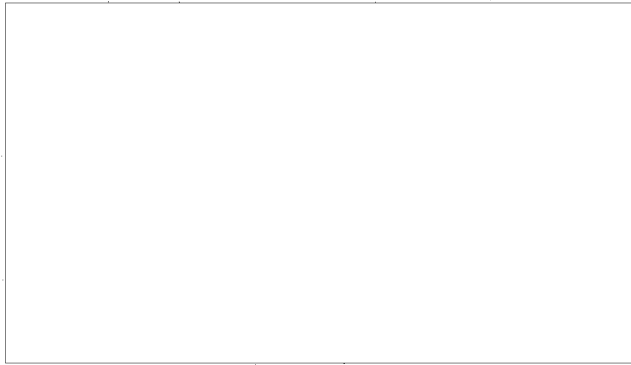
SOUTH VIETNAM



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CHILE

The presidential campaign in Chile has begun, although the election is ten months away. Of seven declared candidates, three are presently considered the real contenders. These are former president Jorge Alessandri on the right, Radomiro Tomic of the governing Christian Democratic Party, and Socialist Senator Salvador Allende on the far left.

Alessandri, now 73 years old, is an independent with a nationalistic and paternalistic image that carries his appeal far beyond the conservative National Party that nominated him. The ambitious and combative Tomic, rebuffed in a pitch for Communist support, is now courting middle class backing and trying to reorganize the lower class groups that figured in Frei's victory in 1964. Allende suffers from overexposure and lukewarm support from his own party, but he is ahead of the other four candidates of the far left because of his vote-getting prowess --demonstrated in three previous presidential tries.

Chileans are obsessed with politics. Their numerous, opinionated, and articulate newspapers foster this interest and accentuate divisions. Acrimonious political jokes are a national avocation, and political judgments are harsh and changeable. The Frei government's "revolution in liberty" has alienated both right and left, and the majority of Chileans who belong to no political party are seeking a new solution. There is strong evidence of widespread desire for a pause in innovation and for order and security. This desire has made most observers see Alessandri leading the race, but it is balanced by an equally apparent fear of retrogression. An imponderable factor is the consistent and growing strength of the Chilean leftist forces--led by the largest, best organized, and most influential orthodox Communist party in Latin America outside of Cuba.

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

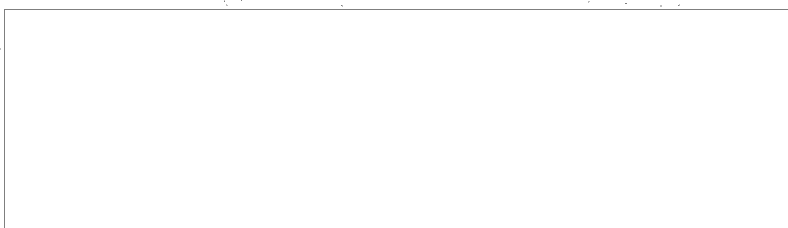
A communiqué issued at the end of the summit meeting in The Hague includes an agreement in principle on opening membership negotiations with Britain, Denmark, Norway, and Ireland. The members also expressed their wish to agree upon definitive agricultural financing arrangements by the end of this year, and to see the EC Council reduce farm surpluses and cut the costs of the Common Agricultural Policy. In addition, they recommended that national contributions to the farm fund be phased out, and replaced by the Communities' "own resources."

The agreement was reached after Brandt and Pompidou had stated their countries' positions strongly in Monday's session. Brandt, expressing West Germany's new assertiveness in foreign affairs, delivered a dramatic plea for the enlargement of the Communities. Pompidou, while making it clear that the French veto on British accession had been removed, stressed the conditions that would have to be met before negotiations could begin.

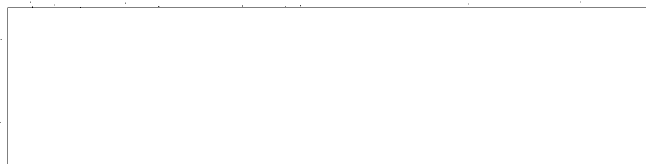
The effect of the resolution of these problems on the future shape of the Communities is far from clear. Despite urging by EC Commission President Rey, no commitments seem to have been made to strengthen community institutions. Moreover, the arrangements for increased political cooperation suggested by both Pompidou and Brandt could, unless carefully circumscribed, detract from existing institutions.

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USSR



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CUBA

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Cuban Foreign Minister Roa said recently that Castro has no desire to re-establish diplomatic relations with other Latin American countries. He believes that virtually all existing governments in Latin America are "rotten" and doomed to fall within a few years. Roa claimed, however, that Castro would welcome commercial relations with the rest of Latin America--if the deals worked to Cuba's advantage--but believes that few countries have much to offer.

Castro's real interest in resuming relations with any Latin American country would be the effect such a move would have on undermining the OAS sanctions or the US economic denial campaign. In a speech last July he offered to resume ties, but only with those governments willing to acknowledge the "immorality" of the OAS sanctions against Cuba and to renounce them publicly.

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NOTES

UN - Arms Control: The Soviets have indicated they will press to a vote their own draft CBW resolution. This would have the General Assembly commend the USSR's proposed convention which bans the production, development, and stockpiling of CBW agents and requires the destruction of existing stocks. Soviet disarmament expert Alexey Roschin described as wholly unacceptable the Canadian proposal that would evenhandedly refer all CBW resolutions to the Geneva disarmament talks for further consideration. Roschin also noted that the Soviet position was in line with the Swedish initiative that would have the General Assembly interpret the Geneva Protocol of 1925 as prohibiting the use of tear gas and herbicides in war. These CBW resolutions--and any others that may be introduced--will come up for voting in the General Assembly in about ten days.

Venezuela: President Caldera is increasingly concerned that the revised US petroleum import program will further reduce his country's share of US markets. Caldera's concern is genuine. From 1962 to 1968, Venezuela's share of US crude oil imports dropped from 41.1 percent to 26.6 percent, and its share of the refined product also dropped significantly. A further reduction of oil exports to the US would have an immediate impact on the country's social and economic programs, which depend heavily on oil revenues for financing.

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